

Mr. Speaker, I commend Nucor for their wise investment in South Carolina's economy, families and environment.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS LEGISLATION

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as I recollect the pronouncements being made by this House just a year ago, Republicans said that we will not, this House will not raid Social Security and Medicare, from the very highest levels of their leadership. Interestingly, today, we come with a back room supplemental appropriations bill that raises the debt limit so that we can, in fact, raid Medicare and Social Security.

This is legislation that we should not support. Social Security is the very underpinnings of security for hard-working Americans. Medicare provides health care for hard-working Americans who have reached retirement. Here we are today passing a bill or attempting to pass a bill that will raise the debt limit, a very dangerous and cynical provision that allows the Federal Government to break its own spending limit, therefore undermining again the trust of the American people, believing that Social Security should be there for all who work hard.

We need a more responsible and honest and bipartisan budget. We need to protect and strengthen Social Security. We need to protect and save Medicare. We need to vote no on this rule and we need to vote no on this supplemental if, of course, it proposes an increase in the debt limit.

VETERANS NATIONAL CEMETERY IN NORTH FLORIDA

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to hear the Veterans Administration cemetery expansion is a top priority for the President next year. Florida has our Nation's second largest veterans' population in the United States and one of its oldest. In fact, it is number one.

Nearly 325,000 veterans call home somewhere in the Jacksonville City vicinity, and this is the location of 3 congressional districts, mine, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW), as well as in nearby southern Georgia. Yet the closest VA cemetery is at least a 3-hour drive from Jacksonville. The next closest in proximity lies in Marietta, Georgia, which is just north of Atlanta.

A new national VA cemetery in the metropolitan Jacksonville area or nearby Clay County would answer the

unmet need for north Floridians and southern Georgians.

My colleagues may ask why should I support a cemetery in Florida. Well, from Michigan and New York, the Midwest and elsewhere, there is a high likelihood that their constituents are contemplating retiring in north Florida. We welcome them and I hope my colleagues will sign on to my bill H.R. 1205.

We welcome your veteran constituents to call north Florida home. I hope you will consider cosponsoring my bill, H.R. 1205, and help us to provide the dignified, hallowed grounds our veterans deserve.

MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

(Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Military Appreciation Month. I rise to thank our men and women in uniform for their sacrifice, service and dedication.

We show our appreciation by voting them the pay raise they earned and making sure they live in quality housing and have the tools they need to defend us. In addition to our active duty personnel, nearly 82,000 members of the National Guard and the Reserves have been called into active duty since September 11.

I appreciate those who serve our Nation, put their lives on the line to defend our freedom. These men and women are heroes. They work side by side with us during the week. Their children go to school with our children, but on weekends and when called upon, they go into active duty to defend our country. I want them to know that America thanks them.

I specifically would like to thank General Andreotti and Colonel Dennis Lord of the Minnesota National Guard for their long and diligent service fighting for the interests of the Guard and Reserve. I want to thank the Minnesota National Guard and Reserve. Two weeks ago was their last week guarding the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport.

THE LONG WAR ON TERROR

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, we find ourselves in a long war on terror. There has been much discussion on Capitol Hill this week and around America about blame and about how it is that we ought to inquire and investigate institutional failures.

So I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to remind us that our experience with terror in America did not begin on September 11 in Washington and in New York. Rather, it began on February 26, 1993, with the first World Trade Center bombing. Terrorists blew a hole 6 stories deep in an attempt to topple the

north tower; Mogadishu, Somalia, 18 American soldiers killed; the Khobar Towers in 1996, a barracks housing U.S. soldiers, 19 servicemen killed; U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998, 245 killed; the *USS Cole* in October of 2000, 17 servicemen killed.

We are in a prolonged engagement with terror centered in a single terrorist organization. Let us stand with our intelligence committees as they rightly inquire into the institutional failures that have occurred.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3448, PUBLIC HEALTH SECURITY AND BIOTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACT OF 2002

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 427 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 427

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3448) to improve the ability of the United States to prevent, prepare for, and respond to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida). The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 427 is a rule providing for the consideration of the conference report for H.R. 3448, the bioterrorism bill. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. It also provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

The Committee on Rules approved this rule last night, and I urge my colleagues to support it so that we can proceed with an hour of debate and consideration of this bipartisan conference report.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to applaud the commendable work of my friends and colleagues on the Committee on Energy and Commerce for the work they have done to bring this final bill to the floor today. The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN), the committee chairman, and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), along with the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), who is the chairman of the Intelligence Subcommittee on Terrorism and Homeland Security, all of whom played an instrumental role in securing the much-needed \$600 million in authorization for the